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NRO REVIEW COMPLETED

21 December 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT : Conversation with Brigadier General E. G. Lansdale, Office of the Secretary of Defense, 20 December, Regarding TACKLE South China Missions and [redacted] (North Vietnam U-2 Reconnaissance [redacted])

1. Following a preliminary conversation with Captain Dankworth in JRC, I was able to get through to General Lansdale the morning of 20 December to request him to progress the [redacted] Black Book and the outstanding questions on [redacted] mission to the Szechwan Basin with Mr. Gilpatric, Deputy Secretary of Defense. Captain Dankworth had briefed General Lansdale just prior to my telephone call at 11:20 a.m.

2. General Lansdale said that he would be probably unable to reach Mr. Gilpatric on this problem until noon or shortly thereafter. I explained to him that [redacted] the Basin had a 1300 go-no-go deadline, and that between 1120 and 1300 we had a requirement to get a White House message through to Mr. Bundy in Nassau on the subject and to receive from Mr. Bundy his approval as Chairman of the Special Group.

3. Once General Lansdale realized that the problem was time-critical, he said that in view of this he would personally accept responsibility for Mr. Gilpatric's concurrence on all of these matters. He did ask if State had raised any objection, and when I told him that Alexis Johnson reportedly concurred (info from Tom Parrott [redacted]) he said he felt confident that Gilpatric would also go along with the idea, since the only hesitancy in China and North Vietnam as far as reconnaissance stemmed from the Department of State. I advised [redacted] of the substance of this conversation and Mr. Parrott as well.

1 - [redacted]
1 - [redacted]
1 - VDA/IV
1 - [redacted]
1 - [redacted]

cc: [redacted]
DD/R

[redacted]
JAMES A. CUNNINGHAM, JR.
Acting Assistant Director
(Special Activities)

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